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SUBJECT: CZECH EU PRESIDENCY - EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT CASE
OF SABERI

REF: STATE 30046

(SBU) On April 9, British Embassy Political Counselor in Prague contacted Embassy Prague to inform us of their efforts to encourage an EU presidency statement on the Saberi case. Prior to this, Emboff delivered the reftel demarche to the Czech MFA Middle East Department on April 2. Charge Thompson-Jones also followed up and contacted MFA Political Director Martin Povejsil April 9 to reiterate USG concerns about journalist Roxanna Saberi. Povejsil acknowledged to Charge Thompson-Jones that the MFA was working on a statement, which he hoped would be ready for release April 9 or 10. On the evening of April 9, the Czech EU Presidency released a statement.

Begin text:
EU Presidency Statement on developments in the case of Roxanna Saberi

The Presidency of the EU expresses its serious concern at the developments in the case of Roxanna Saberi following the announcement on 8.4. that she has been charged with espionage.

The Presidency urges the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with all international and regional human rights instruments ratified by Iran, and would like to underline the need to comply with Article 10, on the right to a fair trial and Article 19, on the right to freedom of expression, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as enshrined in the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

End Text.
Thompson-Jones